

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4346
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2001
EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN
BIKASH CHOWDHURY;N.N. KRISHNADAS;P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the year '2001' is being observed as a year of empowerment for women;
- (b) whether the Bill relating to grant of 33 percent reservation to the women in Parliament and State Assemblies is pending for quite a long time;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the specific steps being taken by the Government to get the Bill passed early?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b),(c)&(d) The Government introduced on 23.12.1999 the Constitution (Eighty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1999, seeking to provide that as nearly as one-third seats shall be reserved for women in the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of States. The Bill was listed for consideration and passing in that House on 21.12.2000 and 22.12.2000 during Winter Session but could not be considered in the absence of consensus among the political parties. The Bill did not come up for consideration and passing in the Budget and Monsoon Sessions of Parliament this year. The notice of consideration and passing of the Bill in the Lok Sabha has also been given for the Winter Session, 2001.